

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00326 100739Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----103784 100740Z /17
O 100700Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5375

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON FY 78 IMET PROGRAM IN
PAKISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 309089 (B) ISLAMABAD 0163 (C) ISLAMABAD 12536

1. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS FORCEFULLY ABOUT STRONG
DESIRABILITY OF RETAINING INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND
TRAINING (IMET) PROGRAM ON GRANT BASIS. IN FOREIGN POLICY TERMS, I
THINK THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT U.S. INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY
CONTINUATION AND WOULD BE DAMAGED BY CANCELLATION.

2. PROBLEM IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. GLENN
AMENDMENT CONDITIONS HAVE NOT OCCURRED, AND THERE IS NO PRESENT
NEED TO CURTAIL NEW EXPENDITURES UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, BUT
CONFIDENTIALITY FACTOR PREVENTS US FROM TELLING CONGRESS ALL WE
KNOW. IN ADDITION TO REAFFIRMING POSITIVE VALUE OF IMETP (REF C),
ONE WAY TO APPROACH CONTRASSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE TO
EMPHASIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AID COMMITMENTS (THAT WE ARE
WITHHOLDING) AND IMET (THAT WE PLAN TO CONTINUE). WE COULD EXPLAIN
THE FOLLOWING:

A. WE WITHHOLD NEW AID COMMITMENTS SO AS TO AVOID SEEMING TO
SNEAK UNDER THE GLENN AMENDMENT WIRE WITH NEW AID AGREEMENTS THAT
WOULD NOT BE CANCELLED IN EVENT GLENN AMENDMENT COMES INTO FORCE.
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B. AID PROJECTS ARE IN SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS (ONE IS FOR \$25
MILLION).

C. AID PROJECTS OFTEN GO ON FOR YEARS (AS WITNESS PRESENT
PIPELINE OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS OF ABOUT \$40 MILLION THAT WOULD
NOT BE STOPPED UNDER GLENN AMENDMENT).

3. IN CASE OF IMET, ALL THESE FACTORS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT. IMET IS

IN DISCRETE PACKAGES OF GRANT AMOUNTS FOR TRAINING OF INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN FOR LONG-TERM PROJECTS. THE SIZE OF EACH TRAINING PACKAGE IS MINUSCULE COMPARED TO LARGER AID PROJECTS. THEIR DURATION IS LIMITED, AND THEREFORE THE "PIPELINE FACTOR" OF CARRYOVER OR OF REPROGRAMING, IF GLENN IS INVOKED, IS VERY SMALL.

4. MOREOVER, IT IS WORTH POINTING OUT THAT EVEN DURING YEARS OF DIFFICULT BILATERAL RELATIONS AFTER OUR UNILATERAL ARMS EMBARGO IN 1971 INDO-PAKISTAN WAR, THE MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PAKISTAN WAS MAINTAINED. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE BOTH SIDES PLACED ON IMET PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA00326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0325
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780182/aaaacqub.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46ac6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 309089, 78 ISLAMABAD 163, 78 ISLAMABAD 12536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3802651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON FY 78 IMET PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46ac6de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014